REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 13 and 14 are amended and claim 12 is canceled herein. With entry of this amendment, claims 5-7, 13-14, and 17-20 will be pending.

Claims 5-7, 13-14, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,309 (Cook et al.). It is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims recite features not disclosed by the cited reference. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of the rejection.

Claim 5 is directed at extracting information from compressed network management object identifiers and includes extracting a first value from the identifier, decompressing that first value to recover a first group of elements of the identifier, and then extracting the remaining elements from the identifier. Similar recitations are found in claims 17 and 18.

The Cook et al. patent discloses a different scheme for encoding network management object identifiers. As summarized at column 2, lines 23-44, Cook et al. teach a method for transmitting identifiers and the variables that they identify in a way that reduces redundancy. Where multiple variables are denoted by identifiers that share elements or "sub-identifiers," one may remove redundancy by combining the variables into a single summary variable and transmitting the shared elements of the identifier only once for the summary variable. In this way one need not repeatedly transmit identifier elements that are repeated.

By contrast, claims 5, 17 and 18 recite extracting information from a network management object identifier where certain elements are decompressed and other elements are extracted. In Cook et al., there is no such compressed network management identifier, rather sub-identifiers that would be repeated are simply skipped by combining multiple variables into a single summary variable. The text in Cook et al. (see column 5, lines 39-49) further reinforces that the Cook et al. technique is directed

towards skipping the transmission of identifiers and identifier elements rather than extracting and decompressing parts of an identifier.

Furthermore, Cook et al. do not disclose wherein a first group of elements and remaining elements are associated with a single network management object. Applicant's invention provides advantages not provided by the Cook et al. scheme. For example, single network management objects can be retrieved, transmitted, manipulated, etc., by reference to their identifier without the necessity of unpacking them from a larger multi-object data structure. The failure of the cited art to provide this capability argues further against its relevance to the pending claims.

Claims 6-7, 13-14, and 19-20 are allowable for at least the reason of their dependence from their allowable parent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 399-5608.

Respectfully submitted,

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